

Clearing this afternoon or tonight; slightly colder in the morning. Tomorrow partly cloudy and colder.

STILL KEEPS TALKING

Peerless One Works With His Larynx.

THAT JEFFERSON DINNER

Press Agents Secure Invitation for the Boss.

HIS INVASION OF PITTSBURG

Has Made an Engagement to Speak at Frederick, Md., on May 20, Next.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

NEW YORK, March 28.—William J. Bryan has been invited and has accepted the invitation to attend the Jefferson day dinner of the National Democratic Club April 13. The dinner will be held in the Knickerbocker Hotel.

When the first invitations were sent out Mr. Bryan was not included in the list of guests. Gov. Johnson of Minnesota was invited as the guest of honor and principal speaker.

Then the press agents of the peerless one got busy. They finally induced the governors of the club to send an invitation to Mr. Bryan, and his acceptance was received this morning. He will arrive in the city on the morning of April 13, and will remain several days. He will be here April 14, when the democratic state convention to elect the four delegates-at-large to the national convention will be held in Carnegie Hall. If invited to do so, Mr. Bryan will address the convention, and his press agents are busy trying to arrange that such an invitation will be extended.

Bryan campaign headquarters will be opened in the Victoria Hotel Monday morning and kept open until after the election of delegates to the democratic national convention.

Bryan to Speak at Frederick.

FREDERICK, Md., March 28.—H. Dorey Etchison, a member of the Frederick bar, Thursday went to Washington, D. C., and had an interview with William Jennings Bryan, in which he arranged for Mr. Bryan to come to Frederick and deliver an address here the afternoon of May 20 next. Mr. Bryan has an engagement to speak at Hagerstown, Md., the evening of that day.

Did Not Meet Guffey.

PITTSBURG, March 28.—William J. Bryan visited Pittsburgh yesterday, and last night made two addresses, one inside Exposition Hall, the other outside of about 4,000 people who had been unable to gain admittance to the hall.

Whether the invasion of Col. J. M. Guffey's territory by the Bryan League was a success or not is open to dispute. The Guffey interests, which are lined up against Bryan and all pertaining to him, declare that Bryan made a fizzle, but the Bryan people say not.

Bryan and Guffey did not meet, Col. Guffey remaining in his office all day, and at home in the evening.

Asked if it was not something unusual for a candidate for nomination to thus invade the camp of the enemy, Mr. Bryan said:

"My coming is not an invasion, nor am I in the camp of an enemy. One can recall that Pennsylvania gave me 425,000 votes once for president of the United States, and I cannot think that any state with such a record can be called the enemy's country by me."

Bryan refused absolutely to discuss the pronounced antagonism of National Committeeman Guffey to him, his nearest approach to the subject being a reply to questions as to what he thought of Pennsylvania politics as a whole now.

"We are through with the bosses in Pennsylvania," he said, "they have had their day. Hereafter it will be the people who will talk and the people will instruct their delegates to the national conventions."

NAVAL MAIL VIOLATED.

Venezuela Says It Was a Trivial Accident.

CARACAS, Venezuela, March 28, via Williamsstad, Curacao, March 28.—W. W. Russell, the American minister to Venezuela, in a note dated March 21 advised Dr. Jose de Jesus Paul, the Venezuelan foreign minister, that three pouches of official mail that were brought into La Guaira March 15 by the steam Zulia for the American cruiser Tacoma had been opened in the La Guaira post office. The Tacoma arrived at La Guaira March 18 and is still there. Mr. Russell said it was a very serious thing to break the seal of navy correspondence and he asked for an investigation.

Dr. Paul answered Mr. Russell's note yesterday including a report from the La Guaira postmaster. He said the opening of the pouches in question was accidental and was due to the fact that the seals in them were of the same material as the seals in the La Guaira post office. It was customary to open. In addition Dr. Paul said that only a prejudiced mind could find this occasion for "very serious" because the contents of the pouches had not been disturbed.

NO CHANGE IN PENROSE.

Doctors Say He Is Still a Desperately Sick Man.

PHILADELPHIA, March 28.—United States Senator Penrose, who is ill at his home here, suffering from erysipelas and other complications, passed a good night and today is resting easily. The physicians announce that if the senator maintains his present strength he will recover.

One of the attending physicians, after paying the patient a visit today, said: "Senator Penrose's condition is what we might call stationary. He had a good and natural sleep last night, but he still is a desperately sick man, and we cannot, as yet, call his condition good."

The noon bulletin, signed by four physicians, is as follows:

"Senator Penrose passed a reasonably good night. No particular change in the gravity of the situation."

Gov. Guild's Condition Unchanged.

BOSTON, March 28.—An official bulletin issued at 9 a.m. by Dr. Winslow showed no discouraging features in Gov. Guild's case. It was as follows:

"There has been no marked change in the governor's condition during the past twenty-four hours except for the better."

Died at Age of 104 Years.

PEORIA, Ill., March 28.—Robert Kane, aged 104 years, eight months and three days, died yesterday at Bushnell, Ill.

Mr. Kane was born in Ireland in 1804.

QUEER MURDER CASE

Statement Given Out by a Negro Ex-Convict.

IS WRONG MAN IN JAIL?

Young Collins Serving Life Sentence for Father's Death

MAY BE VICTIM OF PERJURY

Informers Says He Was Urged to Take Part in the Plot—Case May Be Reopened.

EMPORIA, Kan., March 28.—In a signed statement given out here today Louis T. W. Archer, a negro, a former convict, reiterated his recent charge that two other negroes planned the murder, in 1898, of J. S. Collins, the wealthy Topeka real estate man, for whose killing his son, John Collins, a university student, is now serving a life sentence in the Kansas penitentiary. Archer says he had not previously made known his connection with the case because of the threats made by the alleged murderers.

Why He Kept Quiet.

Archer recently was released from the same penitentiary where young Collins is confined. Becoming educated while in the penitentiary Archer has with much labor produced a book dealing with his connection with this famous case. This he supplemented today by his statement, in which he says:

"I was afraid to communicate with young Collins while I was in the penitentiary from the mere fact that he had forced the world to believe he was guilty, and I was afraid that if I told anything to the warden that he would think I was crazy after the case. Therefore the warden and some of the guards might have caused it to go pretty hard with me."

Son May Be Innocent.

"My own people told me before I went to the penitentiary that after they got John Collins in the penitentiary if I attempted to reveal the scheme the public would ignore me and put me in the insane asylum. So I kept mum. No one knows how old man Collins left this world except my colored people and myself. My colored people told me before Collins' death of the evidence on which they would swear that he was guilty. Therefore the two negroes whom he asserted asked him to enter the plot to murder and rob the elder Collins."

Young Collins was convicted on the testimony of two negroes.

WOMAN GAGGED AND ROBBED.

Latest of a Series of Outrages in Louisiana.

NEW ORLEANS, March 28.—Police and detectives are busy today working on one of the latest of a series of outrages of a similar nature which have been perpetrated here during the last few months. When Otto Belgeck of 4420 Canal street returned home from his work last night he found his bride of a few weeks stretched unconscious on the floor, a pair of \$500 diamond earrings belonging to her missing and the house ransacked.

When she regained consciousness Mrs. Belgeck said she had returned home late in the afternoon and heard some one in the house. Upon starting out she was attacked. A handkerchief saturated with a red liquid was stuffed in her mouth when she was found by her husband.

CURE CROWD WENT SLOW.

No Great Rush to Buy on Lawson's Tip.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

NEW YORK, March 28.—Curb brokers looked for a lot of excitement today and they found it at the opening of the market, when there was a good-sized scramble to buy shares of the Tuganah-im-Yukon Gold Company, stock 700,000 shares of which had been advertised for sale by Thomas W. Lawson. The usual curb crowd was augmented by about 400 when 10 o'clock came and the windows of the buildings overlooking the open-air market on Broad street were packed with speculators.

Before the opening it became known that the shares had been distributed among various groups of brokers who, apparently had been selected as much for their physical fitness as anything else. Evidently it had been the idea of those who distributed the shares that a man who was to sell them must be sufficiently powerful to withstand the avalanche of buyers that was expected.

When 10 o'clock came there was a rush for these centers of interest and other brokers not interested in the venture looked on and for a while did practically no business at all. The stock opened at from 2 1/2 to 3 and in the first ten minutes went to 4 1/2. The prospects then were that it would advance still further, but toward the close of the first hour the excitement died out and interest began to flag. The price was then 4 1/2, and it was remarked that considerable difficulty was experienced in getting it over 6 1/2.

One report had it that between 100,000 and 200,000 shares had been dealt in during the first hour. A well-informed observer said that 40,000 shares would be nearer the mark.

Smoothing Over the Berlin Affair.

BERLIN, March 28.—The foreign office is practically silent today regarding Emperor William's messages to President Roosevelt in the matter of the appointment of Dr. David Jayne Hill to succeed Charlemagne Tower as American ambassador to Germany. It has, however, given an intimation to the Berlin newspapers that Mr. Tower is not to be attacked, and it explains that its denials of the past few days have only been intended to make clear that no official expressions adverse to Dr. Hill have gone through the usual channels of the German government to Washington.

Motor Cars Lag.

OMAHA, Neb., March 28.—Union Pacific railroad bulletins announce that the German car, which is at Rock Springs, Wyo., will be sent to Ogden by rail instead of under its own power.

OGDEN, Utah, March 28.—The first French car left Ogden this morning at 7:40.



JOHNSON IS WILLING

MINNESOTAN READY TO BE CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENCY.

ST. PAUL, Minn., March 28.—Gov. John A. Johnson of Minnesota yesterday afternoon made a specific declaration that, while he has done nothing and will do nothing toward procuring for himself the democratic nomination for President, he will not refuse the honor if it is tendered him. The governor made this statement in a letter to Swan J. Turnblad, publisher of the Minneapolis Swedish-American Post, who had asked for a declaration on the subject. The governor's letter follows:

ST. PAUL, Minn., March 27, 1908.

My Dear Mr. Turnblad:—Your letter of March 23, in which you state that you have been subjected to many inquiries as to my plans in connection with the democratic nomination for President, I have for acknowledgment. In reply thereto let me say:

I do not believe that any American citizen should be an active, open candidate for the nomination to the presidency. Any American would appreciate the high honor which could come to him in being selected as standard-bearer of his party. While I recognize that the press has much to say about me in connection with this high office, I have hitherto avoided any public or private expression regarding my position.

Would Make Him Happy.

Matters have progressed so far, however, that it seems to me that I should at least say in answer to your inquiry that if the democratic party of the nation believed me to be more available than any other man and felt that by my nomination I could contribute any service to the party and to the nation I should be happy to be the recipient of the honor which it would thus confer.

I am not unmindful, either, of the high honor which has been paid me by the people of Minnesota; and if the democratic party of the state desires to present my name to the next national convention I am sure I would have no objection. But even if Minnesota were the only state to declare for me at that time, I should still feel that the distinction was one of the greatest which could come to me. I have done nothing and will do nothing in the way of organization to bring about this end, and shall not be a candidate in the sense of seeking the nomination.

If, however, those who have the welfare of the country and the democratic party at heart should feel that I am necessary in this year of grace, I certainly shall respond to any call which may be made upon me.

Not to Be Used.

In this connection I desire it understood that in no sense am I to be a candidate for the purpose of defeating Mr. Bryan nor any other man; that the only consideration which would induce me to allow the use of my name would be the feeling that I might be necessary to the cause. If the democratic party should see fit to nominate Mr. Bryan or any one else the action would meet with my approval, and the nominee certainly would have my unqualified support, as I should expect his support if conditions were reversed.

I have written you fully that you may thoroughly understand the situation. In order that there may be no doubt, however, I repeat to you that I certainly shall not if a nomination came to me I certainly would not refuse it.

Very truly yours,

JOHN A. JOHNSON.

No Change in British Premier.

LONDON, March 28.—The bulletins issued each day regarding the condition of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, the British premier, show little variance. None of them indicates any improvement, and as each day passes without signs of rally the public anxiety grows deeper. The bulletin issued this morning said:

"There is little change to report in the condition of the prime minister. The patient had a good night, and there has been no further marked loss of strength."

Murder Mystery in Massachusetts.

ARLINGTON, Mass., March 28.—The body of an unknown woman with her throat cut and showing many indications of murder was found in a pit in St. Paul's cemetery by two boys today. The condition of the body seemed to indicate that the woman had been dead for several hours.

VISIT NEW ZEALAND

EVANS' FLEET TO GO THERE FROM SAMOA.

It has been virtually decided by the Navy Department that the Atlantic battleship fleet shall make a short visit to Auckland, New Zealand, on its way from Samoa to Sydney, Australia. There is an ample supply of good coal at the New Zealand port, and a stop there will afford an excellent opportunity to fill the bunkers of all the ships for the long trip to the Philippines and Japan, and also to show the appreciation of the United States government for the prompt and cordial invitation received from the New Zealand authorities.

Suggestion for Pennant.

All sorts of curious suggestions have reached the Navy Department with respect to the coming cruise to Asia and Europe, not the least of which is one received this morning—that each of the vessels of the fleet display a pennant bearing the words "Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men," as an indication of the friendly purpose of the voyage.

3 FIRE VICTIMS DEAD

SEQUEL TO TENEMENT DISASTER AT MILFORD, MASS.

MILFORD, Mass., March 28.—Three persons are dead as a result of last night's tenement house fire and two others are lying at the Milford Hospital in a serious condition. The dead are: Miss Lida Bates, twenty-two years old; Mrs. James Forrest of Wrentham and the three-year-old son of Mrs. Forrest.

The two women died last night and the child succumbed to his injuries early today. Mrs. Susan Bates and a young daughter of Mrs. Forrest were dangerously burned and otherwise injured and are at the hospital. Mrs. Forrest, with her two children, was making a visit to Mrs. Bates, who occupied one of the tenements.

RIOTOUS STUDENTS HELD.

Sequel to Ann Arbor Hearing—Bail \$1,000 Each.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

ANN ARBOR, Mich., March 28.—All fifteen of the students of the University of Michigan arrested in connection with the riot at the Star Theater were today bound over to the circuit court to appear at the May term for trial. Notwithstanding the communication of the mayor, the prosecutor said that he would not dismiss any case unless the mayor would take the responsibility.

A short defense was put in for Samuel Melster to show that he was not throwing anything. "I don't care," said the prosecutor, "every man in that crowd who did not move away when the crowd was ordered to disperse was liable to arrest." Justice Doty bound Melster over to the court, claiming that he had proof that Justice Doty's son was in the crowd. "Would you entertain a warrant for the arrest of your son on this charge?"

"Your relatives and my relatives are not before the court," said his honor. Bail was fixed at \$1,000 each.

Censured Finnish Senate.

HELSINGFORS, March 28.—At the close of a heated debate in the Finnish diet, which lasted until 5 o'clock this morning, the socialist members carried a vote of lack of confidence in the senate by 71 to 47.

The debate arose over certain anti-Finnish interpolations in the Russian duma. The socialists formally censured the Finnish administration for the delivering of Russian terrorists and political agitators to the Russian authorities and for lack of firmness in resisting Russian encroachments upon the rights of Finland; and they demanded the retirement of the senate as incapable of defending the autonomy and liberties of Finland against the present reactionary campaign in Russia.

JAIL FOR FINANCIERS

SENTENCE CONFIRMED ON TOLEDO LUMBERMEN.

TOLEDO, Ohio, March 28.—The circuit court today affirmed the decision of the lower court in the cases of the twenty prominent lumbermen of Toledo who last July were sentenced to the workhouse for six months under the Valentine anti-trust law. The supreme court having decided in the ice trust cases that imprisonment must be in the county jail instead of the workhouse, the lumbermen were sent to the lower court for resentencing. The lumbermen comprise the wealthy and leading citizens of Toledo.

Many Sensation Seekers.

It developed Gov. Hughes had decided to question the attorney and to examine the first witness in private in order to acquaint himself with the new contentions in favor of Gillette, so as to be in a position to fully question subsequent witnesses.

Until noon Gov. Hughes continued the consideration of the case in private and then the governor's secretary announced the hearing had been adjourned until 4:30 p.m. The reception room of the executive chamber suite had been crowded by a crowd of curiosity seekers for two hours and when this announcement was made all of them left the room. The Gillette party also retired.

Mysterious Intimations.

Meanwhile Judge Mills, who represented Gillette at the trial, will reach Albany and Gov. Hughes will have a talk with him. The public hearing at 4:30 o'clock will be brief, the governor said, and at 5 o'clock the private hearing will be resumed by the governor upon a new phase of the case, which the governor divulged to the newspaper men, but which he wanted withheld from publication in justice to the reputation of those involved. The case is made up fully upon affidavits, and the purpose of permitting the governor to study the affidavits and to ask a few questions suggested by their affidavits.

So far in replying to the questions put to him by the governor, no one witness, a man whose name he would not give for the present.

TELLS OF ROAD'S EARNINGS.

Further Hearing in Freight Rate Case at Raleigh.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

RALEIGH, N. C., March 28.—Hearing in the freight rate discrimination case before United States Corporation Commissioner Clements was resumed this morning. The first witness examined was Joseph W. Cox of Roanoke, Va., controller of the Norfolk and Western. His examination consumed most of the morning session and was principally taken up with elaborate financial statements showing the net decrease in earnings of that road last year and the increase in expenses for the same period, and in replying to questions put to him in the cross-examination conducted on the part of the state by Speaker Justice of counsel for the North Carolina corporation commission.

The witnesses following Controller Cox this afternoon are L. Green, traffic manager of the Southern; R. A. Brand, traffic manager Atlantic Coast Line, and C. O. Capps, traffic manager Seaboard Air Line. It is the intention to complete the examination of these witnesses late this afternoon and when the interstate commissioner adjourns his court it will be to meet in Washington, probably Monday.

SHOT FOR FIRST THEFT.

Young Man Stole Because Out of Work.

PHILADELPHIA, March 28.—Discovered escaping with the booty of his first robbery, to commit which he said he was prompted by lack of employment, John Robinson, aged twenty-four years, was shot and probably fatally injured today by a policeman in the southern section of the city. In a statement to his widowed mother in the presence of a police magistrate the young man said:

"Mother, this is what I got for trying to help you. I knew we had no money and that we would be put out of our house if we did not get any. I got desperate and decided to steal."

The police agree with the mother that the robbery in which he was detected was his first offense.

MR. RIDGELY DEPARTS.

Goes to Bank His New Duties as Began President.

William B. Ridgely, who has just resigned as controller of the currency, left this afternoon for Kansas City, Mo., to assume his new duties as president of the reorganized National Bank of Commerce, Lawrence O. Murray, who will succeed Mr. Ridgely, is ill at Atlantic City, N. J., and will not be able to take up the new work for a few days. In the interim Deputy Controller Thomas P. Kane is acting controller of the currency.

WORK FOR GILLETTE

Family Trying to Save Him From Execution.

SLAYER OF GRACE BROWN

Due to Be Executed on Monday Next.

APPEALING TO GOV. HUGHES

New Witnesses Say That the Girl Had Epilepsy and Drowned While in a Fit.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

ALBANY, N. Y., March 28.—Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Gillette, the parents of Chester Gillette, who is to be executed at Auburn Monday for the drowning of his sweetheart, Grace "Billy" Brown, at Big Moose lake, in the Adirondacks, in July, 1906, were on hand promptly in the hearing room of the executive chamber at 10 o'clock this morning for the purpose of making a final appeal to Gov. Hughes to stay the carrying out of their boy's sentence. They were accompanied by their Albany counsel, John H. Dugan, and the witnesses, A. H. Gross, Miss Etelle Gillette, Chester Gillette's third cousin; Mrs. Wilcox, Mrs. Hoag and Mrs. Olds, all of Cortland, where Gillette met "Billy" Brown.

Held Private Audience.

It had been expected the hearing on the application for a respite in order to permit an opportunity to present new evidence before a judge with a request for a new trial for Gillette, would be had in public, but Gov. Hughes had not commenced a public hearing up to 11 o'clock. He remained in his private room, meanwhile summoning Gillette's counsel and the stenographer and one of the witnesses, the indications being that in order to avoid scenes and permit unemotional deliberation the governor had decided to look into the case in private.

It was suggested that the new evidence tended to show "Billy" Brown had been subjected to epileptic fits and that her death while on the waters of the lake was an accident occurring while such an attack was upon her.

Many Sensation Seekers.

It developed Gov. Hughes had decided to question the attorney and to examine the first witness in private in order to acquaint himself with the new contentions in favor of Gillette, so as to be in a position to fully question subsequent witnesses.

Until noon Gov. Hughes continued the consideration of the case in private and then the governor's secretary announced the hearing had been adjourned until 4:30 p.m. The reception room of the executive chamber suite had been crowded by a crowd of curiosity seekers for two hours and when this announcement was made all of them left the room. The Gillette party also retired.

Mysterious Intimations.

Meanwhile Judge Mills, who represented Gillette at the trial, will reach Albany and Gov. Hughes will have a talk with him. The public hearing at 4:30 o'clock will be brief, the governor said, and at 5 o'clock the private hearing will be resumed by the governor upon a new phase of the case, which the governor divulged to the newspaper men, but which he wanted withheld from publication in justice to the reputation of those involved. The case is made up fully upon affidavits, and the purpose of permitting the governor to study the affidavits and to ask a few questions suggested by their affidavits.

So far in replying to the questions put to him by the governor, no one witness, a man whose name he would not give for the present.

TELLS OF ROAD'S EARNINGS.

Further Hearing in Freight Rate Case at Raleigh.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

RALEIGH, N. C., March 28.—Hearing in the freight rate discrimination case before United States Corporation Commissioner Clements was resumed this morning. The first witness examined was Joseph W. Cox of Roanoke, Va., controller of the Norfolk and Western. His examination consumed most of the morning session and was principally taken up with elaborate financial statements showing the net decrease in earnings of that road last year and the increase in expenses for the same period, and in replying to questions put to him in the cross-examination conducted on the part of the state by Speaker Justice of counsel for the North Carolina corporation commission.

The witnesses following Controller Cox this afternoon are L. Green, traffic manager of the Southern; R. A. Brand, traffic manager Atlantic Coast Line, and C. O. Capps, traffic manager Seaboard Air Line. It is the intention to complete the examination of these witnesses late this afternoon and when the interstate commissioner adjourns his court it will be to meet in Washington, probably Monday.

SHOT FOR FIRST THEFT.

Young Man Stole Because Out of Work.

PHILADELPHIA, March 28.—Discovered escaping with the booty of his first robbery, to commit which he said he was prompted by lack of employment, John Robinson, aged twenty-four years, was shot and probably fatally injured today by a policeman in the southern section of the city. In a statement to his widowed mother in the presence of a police magistrate the young man said:

"Mother, this is what I got for trying to help you. I knew we had no money and that we would be put out of our house if we did not get any. I got desperate and decided to steal."

The police agree with the mother that the robbery in which he was detected was his first offense.

MR. RIDGELY DEPARTS.

Goes to Bank His New Duties as Began President.

William B. Ridgely, who has just resigned as controller of the currency, left this afternoon for Kansas City, Mo., to assume his new duties as president of the reorganized National Bank of Commerce, Lawrence O. Murray, who will succeed Mr. Ridgely, is ill at Atlantic City, N. J., and will not be able to take up the new work for a few days. In the interim Deputy Controller Thomas P. Kane is acting controller of the currency.

HEFLIN HEARING IS POSTPONED

Alabaman Charged With Unlawful Shooting.

DECLARES HE DID RIGHT

Acted Only as a Gentleman Should Under the Circumstances.

CONDITION OF THE WOUNDED

Defendant Ejects Negro From Street Car After Striking Him—By-stander Shot.

Representative Thomas J. Hefflin of Alabama, who last night shot two men on Pennsylvania avenue, as a result of an altercation growing out of his objection to negroes drinking liquor in a street car in the presence of a lady passenger, appeared in the Police Court this morning to answer to two charges of "assault with a dangerous weapon." It was agreed between his counsel and United States Attorney Given that the hearing of the case should be postponed to a later date, neither being ready to proceed at the time the case was called. Mr. Hefflin was again released under a bond of \$5,000, and today resumed his seat in the House of Representatives.

"I am glad to say I have not yet reached the point where I will see a negro, or a white man either, take a drink in the presence of a lady without saying something to him. I did only what any other gentleman placed in similar circumstances would have done."

With only this comment Representative Thomas J. Hefflin of Alabama today dismissed discussion of the shooting affair in